

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 4-16, and 18-20 were pending in this Application. In the Office Action mailed June 17, 2005, claims 2, 4-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 2 and 4-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,974,662 to Eldridge et al. ("Eldridge"). To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Examiner Nguyen is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the telephone interview conducted September 7, 2001. During that interview, the Examiner conceded that the limitation recited in independent claims 2, 10, and 18, "wire drawing operation resulting in a wire cross-sectional area reduction of about 70-75%," was supported by the disclosure of embodiments in the specification of this Application. Accordingly, Applicant's respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn. To the extent that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is withdrawn, Applicants submit that claims 18-20 will be in allowable condition as no art rejection currently stands against these claims.

In this Amendment, claims 2 and 4-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-33 have been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 18-33 will be pending. New claims 21-33 are believed to be fully supported by the specification and not to involve recitation of new matter.

To the extent that Eldridge may be applied to reject new claims 21-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), Applicants submit that claims 21-33 are patentably distinct for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 21 recites features of a probe, including a drawn wire that contains a core material comprising a metal alloy (“one of palladium alloy and copper beryllium alloy”) and a nickel plating material (“plating material containing one of nickel plating and nickel alloy plating”). As disclosed in the specification on page 10, line 7-19, the drawn wire has superior mechanical properties to conventional plated wire.

Eldridge teaches use of core materials for probes in probe cards that include copper alloys and palladium metal for probe core materials (column 12, lines 37-39) and include nickel for probe “shell” materials (column 12, lines 56-59). However, Eldridge fails to disclose or suggest a probe that is made with drawn wire that contains an alloy core and a nickel-based plating. Accordingly, claim 21 and all the dependent claims thereto should be patentably distinct over Eldridge.

Claim 28 recites a method for fabricating a probe that involves forming a core wire material and plating the core material (“forming a wire using a core material having an initial core diameter; plating the core material with a plating material having an initial plating thickness”), followed by drawing the plated wire through dies to reduce the diameter of the plated wire (“drawing the wire through one or more dies, wherein a final probe wire diameter is substantially smaller than the initial diameter”). As noted above, this process leads to superior mechanical properties of the probe. Eldridge neither teaches nor suggests a probe fabrication

Serial No.: 09/993,675
Art Unit: 2829

Attorney's Docket No.: AKE0001-US (540235-0000002)
Page 8

method that involves drawing a plated wire through dies to reduce the wire diameter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 and the dependent claims thereto are patentably distinct over Eldridge.

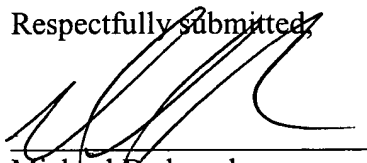
In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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